

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 CU-04 DRC-01

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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2055

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: NRW SPD LAND CONVENTION

REF: OUR 1067 AND MEMCON DATED SEPTEMBER 24 (NOTAL)

1. DECIDING NOT TO AWAIT THE EXPECTED JUSO ATTACK AT THE SPD LAND CONVENTION AT MUENSTER ON SEPTEMBER 30, MINISTER PRESIDENT HEINZ KUEHN SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE JUSOS FOR ACTING AS THOUGH THEY WERE "A PARTY WITHIN A PARTY". KUEHN WARNED THE JUSOS AND THEIR FRIENDS THAT THE "SLEEPING MAJORITY" WOULD REACT STRONGLY IF THE JUSOS PERSISTED IN SUCH ACTIONS AS THEIR SUPPORT FOR WILD CAT STRIKES, UNBRIDLED CRITICISM OF THE FDP, AND CALLS FOR BASIC REFORM BY EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY MEANS. CONTRADICTING PARTY OPTIMISTS, KUEHN SAID THAT IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD TODAY "THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO CELEBRATE".

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2. THE RESPONSE BY THE JUSOS AND OTHER LEFTISTS PRESENT TO KUEHN'S STERN WARNING WAS BITTER AND PERSONAL. ALTHOUGH RETIRING AFTER SEVERAL YEARS AS SPD LAND CHAIRMAN (A CONDITION HE SET FOR ACCEPTING THE VICE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL PARTY), KUEHN HEARD NO WORD OF APPRECIATION FROM HIS COMRADES ON THE LEFT.

3. DESPITE THE JUSO'S SOUND AND FURY, KUEHN AND HIS ALLIES CONTROLLED THE CONVENTION AS IS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT PARTY CONSERVATIVE AND LABOR MINISTER, WERNER FIGGEN (RECENT IVP GRANTEE) WAS ELECTED (255 TO 36) AS KUEHN'S SUCCESSOR AS LAND CHAIRMAN.

4. COMMENT: IT IS ASSUMED HERE THAT KUEHN WOULD NOT HAVE ATTACKED HIS PARTY'S LEFTISTS SO VIGOROUSLY WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR BRANDT. THUS, MUENSTER MAY BE THE OCCASSION WHEN THE JUSOS HAVE BEEN TOLD PUBLICLY, OFFICIALLY AND FIRMLY THAT CONTINUED SPD MEMBERSHIP REQUIRES CERTAIN LOYALTIES AND OBLIGATIONS.HENNEMEYER

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